



For Immediate Release

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***HELP COMMITTEE PASSES BILLS TO RENEW COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS, IMPROVE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACT***

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today announced the Committee's unanimous passage of two bills, S. 3771, the "Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006," and H.R. 5071, the "Railroad Retirement Technical Improvement Act."

*** S. 3771 - "The Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006" ***

"Community Health Centers are a critical piece of the health care safety net and a vital piece of our health care system," Enzi said. "Since the 1960s, Health Centers have been providing regular access to high quality health care to people living in rural and underserved areas, regardless of their ability to pay. It is my hope that this bill can be passed by the full Senate and sent to the House for final approval so that the President can sign it into law."

S. 3771 amends the "Public Health Service Act" to provide authorizations for the Health Centers program for fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The authorization for FY 2007 is \$1.9 billion, and the authorization for FY 2008 is \$2.08 billion.

"I would like to thank Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and the Committee's Ranking Member, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) for their work on this bill," Enzi said. "I also appreciate the work of Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Senator Bill Frist (R-TN), and Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) for looking at additional ways to expand access to high quality health care."

*** H.R. 5071 – "The Railroad Retirement Technical Improvement Act" ***

The "Railroad Retirement Technical Improvement Act," H.R. 5071, makes changes to the "Railroad Retirement Survivor's Improvement Act" to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to remain the disbursing agent for payment of railroad retirement benefits.

“The authority for the Secretary of the Treasury to remain the disbursing agent for the railroad retirement payments expires on September 30, 2006, so it is important that we report the measure to the Senate for speedy consideration,” Enzi said. “If Congress fails to act, the Railroad Retirement Board will be required to expend an additional \$2 million per year to hire an outside firm to perform the same function that the Treasury Department is performing for less cost. The bill is cost effective and is supported by the Treasury Department, Railroad Retirement Board, and railroad labor and management.

“I would like to thank Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) for advocating this bill’s prompt consideration, and his tireless work on this issue.”

“I appreciate all the hard work of my colleagues to ensure that we were able to bring these bills to mark up, and I hope we can bring them to the floor of the Senate for a vote as quickly as possible,” Enzi added.

*** Nominations ***

The Committee also approved the following nominations:

- Randolph James Clerihue, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor, Department of Labor;
- Jane M. Doggett, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities;
- Stephen Goldsmith, to be Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Corporation for National and Community Service;
- Roger L. Hunt, to be Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation, Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation;
- John E. Kidde, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation, Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation;
- Lauren M. Maddox, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach, Department of Education;
- Eliza McFadden, to be Member of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board, National Institute For Literacy;

- John Peyton, to be Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation, Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation;
- Sandra Pickett, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board, Institute of Museum and Library Services;
- Arthur K. Reilly, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation;
- Peter W. Tredick, to be Member of the National Mediation Board, National Mediation Board;
- Two hundred and fifty-six nominations, beginning with Judith Louise Bader, and ending with Raquel Antonia Peat; Public Health Service Corps.

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